

Comments Sought on Legal Agreement Concerning Wauconda Cleanup

Wauconda Sand and Gravel Superfund Site

Wauconda, Illinois

August 2007

For more information

For more information about the legal agreement, to obtain a copy of the agreement, or for information on any other aspects of the Wauconda Sand and Gravel project, please contact:

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Site-related documents

People can read the site file at:

Wauconda Area Library

801 N. Main St.

EPA Region 5

7th Floor Records Center
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Ill.

Web sites

- www.epa.gov/region5/sites/wauconda
- www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/wauconda/wsg_toc.html

Federal Register index site:

- www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html

U.S. Department of Justice, having recently published notice in the Federal Register, is holding a comment period on a legal agreement called a consent decree between the United States and the Wauconda Task Group II. WTG II is a group of parties considered potentially responsible for the ground-water contamination believed to be coming from the Wauconda Sand and Gravel Superfund site. The consent decree relates to the Superfund site (a former landfill) located on the northwest corner of Bonner and Garland roads. WTG II will pay for and do the work required by the consent decree. That work includes:

- creation of a perimeter ground-water monitoring network, including installation of new monitoring wells;
- a new study of the area's ground water and its movement in the soil and rock to characterize the nature and extent of contamination and to evaluate any possible future threats to drinking water;
- construction of infrastructure necessary for reserve water supply, such as a new well and treatment equipment;
- operation and maintenance of completed work.

The consent decree also ensures that no restrictions will be placed on the United States' authority to require emergency response actions.

Opportunities for public comment

Department of Justice is accepting comments on the consent decree until September 24, 2007. Comments should reference United States v. BFI Waste Systems of North America Inc., et al., D.J. Ref. 90-11-2-153/1 and should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division at:

**P.O. Box 7611
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20044-7611**

Comments may also be e-mailed to pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov.

The consent decree may be examined through September 24, 2007 at the Office of the United States Attorney, 219 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill., or on line at www.usdoj.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html.

To request a copy of the decree by mail, send a check for \$35 payable to U.S. Treasury to cover reproduction costs. To request a copy without exhibits and defendants' signatures, enclose a check for \$18.75 to:

**Consent Decree Library
P.O. Box 7611
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20044-7611**

A copy may also be obtained by sending a request to Tonia Fleetwood at tonia.fleetwood@usdoj.gov or fax no. 202-514-0097.

In 2002, a five-year review of the site was conducted that indicated the cleanup at the landfill was still protecting human health and the environment. However, routine sampling conducted by the Lake County Health Department in 2003 revealed contamination in wells in the Hillcrest subdivision, prompting further investigation. In 2004, additional sampling revealed contamination in about 80 wells. As a result, EPA required the WTG II to conduct

From about 1941 until 1978, the site operated as a landfill. About 3 million cubic yards of waste were placed at the site. In 1978, the entire landfill was closed and covered with a layer of clay and soil. Surface water samples taken from Mutton Creek in the early 1980s and sampling of area ground water (underground water supplies) revealed site-related contaminants. As a result, the site was placed on the National Priorities List in September 1983 making it eligible for investigation and cleanup under the Superfund program. In 1986, a legal agreement was reached requiring WTG to study, clean up and fence the area. In 1989, EPA issued a legal order to WTG to do additional work at the site. In 1994, the United States entered into a consent decree with the WTG for the repayment of costs associated with EPA's prior responses and oversight.

Site background

Further extensive studies of the ground water in the area surrounding the site and to provide bottled water to any resident with a level of vinyl chloride in their well equal to or higher than the drinking water standard of 2 parts per billion. Also, as an added safety measure, EPA negotiated with the task group to provide bottled water to anyone with a level of 1 ppb or higher of vinyl chloride in their well. Instead of the bottled water arrangement, WTG II decided to hook up area residents to the village of Wauconda water system. In 2006, WTG II completed connecting about 380 homes in Hillcrest and other subdivisions in unincorporated Wauconda Township to the municipal water supply.

Copies of the consent decree can be found at:

Wauconda Area Library
801 N. Main St.

Wauconda Village Hall
101 N. Main St.

Wauconda Township Hall
505 W. Bonner Rd.



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